

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, claim 7 was deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form, while claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Onuki et al, for the reasons of record. In response, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference, and accordingly, the allowable subject matter has not been placed in independent form pending a final determination of the patentability of the remaining claims.

More particularly, it is suggested in the Action that Onuki teaches all of the elements of the instant invention as claimed. This position is respectfully traversed with respect to several recited elements of independent claims 1 and 9, as detailed below.

Specifically, it is suggested in the Action, that Onuki discloses means for monitoring the current supplied by the power source over time and deriving the charge supplied (col. 8, lines 37-42), but it is respectfully submitted that the cited portions of the reference do not show or suggest this teaching. Rather, the cited portion of the reference relates to a power supply with a DC/DC converter to increase the voltage outputted from the power supply to a desired voltage value corresponding with a control signal. Clearly, this cited teaching does not show or suggest

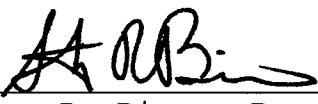
means for monitoring the current supplied by the power source over time and deriving the charge supplied. It is also suggested that the reference teaches means for monitoring the voltage on one of the electrodes of the electrode arrangement (col. 8, lines 47-56), but in fact this portion of the reference teaches that a voltage is applied to the optical element with a desired voltage value, frequency and duty, no where suggesting means for monitoring the voltage on one of the electrodes as recited in the instant application.

Finally, it is suggested that means for deriving from a desired lens power a value for controlling the total charge to be supplied to the electrode arrangement is anticipated at column 12, lines 34-37 of the reference. On the contrary, what this portion of the reference explicitly teaches is a control method for the power supply means and its effects in the case where deformation amount given to the interface of the optical element is smaller than in another embodiment. Clearly, this portion of the reference does not teach means for deriving from a desired lens power a value for controlling the total charge to be supplied to the electrode arrangement.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9 each have at least three expressly recited limitations which are not met by the cited and applied reference. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 9, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied reference. Allowance of the instant application is therefore respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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